

ABSTRACT

Phase I studies were conducted in the proposed impact areas connected with the construction of the Augustine Cut-Off. The project areas included the proposed new road alignments for the Augustine Cutoff and Rockland Connector, an area selected for storm water management, a general stockpile area, and three wetland mitigation areas (Areas A2, B and D). An assessment of two previously recorded sites along Foulk Road, a blacksmith shop (the Smithy Site, 7NC-B-10/N-10939) and the Weldin Plantation Site (7NC-B-11/N-9453), was also made to determine the need for additional work should they be impacted by the proposed construction.

One new archeological site was identified--the Augustine Cutoff Site (7NC-B-49/N-13717), a late 19th/early 20th century domestic site. Several features identified in the field are part of the previously recorded 20th century Blue Ball Dairy Site (7NC-B-50/N-4048), and the eastern edge of the prehistoric Alapocas Run Site (7NC-B-13/N-10941) was included within the Wetland Mitigation Area B.

Wetland Mitigation Area A2

A pile of construction debris (loose stone, brick fragments and mortar) was found near the edge of Alapocas Run along Rockland Road, but no articulated building remains were found in association with the debris. A thin, possibly truncated, buried plow zone underlay the rubble, and artifacts from this Apb are interpreted as representing field scatter. A stone wall and a mortared stone culvert allowing Rockland Road to cross Alapocas Run were found in this area. It is recommended that the stone culvert be photographed, drawn and studied by an engineer if it is to be impacted. No further archeological work is necessary in this area.

Wetland Mitigation Area B

The eastern edge of the prehistoric Alapocas Run Site (7NC-B-13/N-10941) was included in the area to be impacted; this portion of the site is on a slope just below the upland or terrace on which the main part of the site was found. It is probable that some of the artifacts have moved down slope during significant erosional events. All artifacts recovered were in the plow zone and consisted of lithic debitage and two projectile point fragments, one of which was identified as a quartz Bare Island projectile point base, dating to the Woodland I (3000 B.C. – A.D. 500) phase. While the main part of the site is on the level terrace to the west, outside of the projected impact, it is likely that the Alapocas Run Site boundaries cover the entire terrace. The prehistoric artifacts recovered from the wetland mitigation area are considered to be part of the Alapocas Run Site. Although investigation of this area primarily consisted of a systematic surface collection, subsurface test excavations were conducted in order to look for any buried soil horizons that might be present. No features or buried soil horizons were encountered.

A scattering of historic period artifacts were found in areas closest to Rockland Road. These materials are attributed to redeposited field scatter and roadside littering.

No further archeological studies are recommended for this area, but if the area is used for a wetland mitigation site, the level portion of the site adjacent to it should be fenced off to protect it from any construction activities that might take place on the slope below.

Wetland Mitigation Area D

The Bird/Husbands House, built about 1816, is located approximately 100 feet west of this study area. The eighteenth and nineteenth century historic artifacts found in the study area are almost certainly scatter related to the Bird-Husbands house. No features, discrete concentrations, or buried yard surfaces were identified. All artifacts were recovered from the plow zone. The single prehistoric artifact, dating to the Middle to early Late Woodland period (A.D. 600- 1000), recovered from Area D is considered an isolated find and is probably indicative of transient use of the area. No further archeological investigations are recommended for this area.

Storm Water Management Area and Portions of Road Alignments

This area on a 1917 map is shown to contain a number of farm buildings related to activities at the Blue Ball Dairy Operation. One *in situ* foundation was found during this study. Evidence for what may represent a collapsed shed was also recovered. Artifacts were limited in number and function. In addition to these features, a stone wall and two stone and concrete piers (probably once part of a gate entranceway) were also identified. All are considered to be part of the Blue Ball Dairy Site (7NC-B-50/N-4048).

As a map of the structures exist showing their dimensions and, generally, their function, it is doubtful if archeological work could add much to our knowledge that it is not already evident, except to possibly record information on the construction of the buildings. It is suggested that an historian conduct a documentary search if it is felt that more information is needed on the Blue Ball Dairy, since documents relating to A. I. Du Pont and the Nemours Estate seem to be plentiful. If more information on the structures themselves is to be recorded, construction monitoring would be a cost effective way to find the remains.

Portions of Road Alignments and Stockpile Area

One archeological site, the Augustine Cutoff Site (7NC-B-49/N-13717), was found in this area. Two structures may have existed at this location, where two concentrations of building debris were separated by a drainage swale. The ruins of a possible house site containing a cistern, brick concentration and a number of late 19th to 20th century artifacts was identified. Another concentration of stone rubble to the southwest may have been associated with an outbuilding. Except for the cistern, no intact architectural remains were found, and no soil features were discovered during shovel testing. Artifacts in this location were few in number and late 19th to 20th century in date. All artifacts were from the plow zone. At least thirty feet of the site along Concord Pike has been disturbed by trenching for utility lines.

Phase II excavations are recommended for any portion of the site outside of that thirty feet if it is to be used for stockpiling, staging or construction, either at this time or during future work.

Foulk Road from Concord Pike to Weldin Road

Work near the turn-off from Concord Pike onto Weldin Road may impact a portion of a blacksmith shop, the Smithy Site (7NC-B-10/N-10939), identified on the 1849 Rea and Price map. Previous Phase I work here (Taylor et al. 1989) showed that the blacksmith shop had been disturbed by the construction of a much later cinder block gasoline station and no additional work was recommended.

Weldin Plantation (7NC-B-11/N-9453) will receive minimal impact from the proposed work. However, a previous study has noted the importance of this site and recommended Phase III excavations or preservation. The site is an approximately 300 by 400 foot area that includes the ruins of several structures readily evident at the surface. Intact contexts, such as builder's trenches, an interior brick lined well, an exterior well, and sub-floor deposits were encountered in previous investigations (Taylor et al. 1989). Additional work was recommended as it was felt that other intact contexts would be present and that the site would provide an opportunity to study temporal changes and differences in tenant and owner occupied sites (Taylor et al. 1989:205-261) in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Once construction plans are finalized and the areas to be impacted are delineated clearly, then further work may be necessary.